Privatisation of railway hospitals and health centres

751. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering to privatise the medical services provided by the Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification thereof;

(c) whether there has been great resentment amongst the railway employees and even the Unions and Associations have objected to privatisation of railway hospitals and health centres; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No Sir. There is no such proposal before the Government.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Aged rail bridges in Kerala

752. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering to reconstruct any bridge which are hundred years old;

(b) if so, the number of such bridges in Kerala; and

(c) by when the construction/strengthening of such bridges is likely to be commenced and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Reconstruction of Railway bridges is undertaken on condition basis and not merely on basis of age.

East coast railway zone

753. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken decision to make all the new Railway Zones operative during 2001-2002; and